

Congresswoman Carson and Senator Abraham and the Speaker and Mr. Gephardt and the other leaders here—I understand the actual medal has not been struck yet, but a “gold line” copy of the resolution that authorizes the medal has been struck, or prepared, for Mrs. Parks. And I’d like to ask all of you to look to my left, to your right, for a glimpse of the proposed design for the medal.

Could we—Julia, why don’t you go down there, and you and Spence can—[*laughter*—wow, it’s beautiful. Really beautiful, isn’t it? [*Applause*]

Let’s give a big hand to Artis Lane, who was the artist who prepared this. Didn’t she do a wonderful job? [*Applause*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:10 p.m. in the rotunda at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Lloyd J. Ogilvie, Chaplain of the Senate; James David Ford, Chaplain of the House; civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson; Dorothy Height, chairman of the board, National Council of Negro Women; soprano Jessye Norman; Representative Julia Carson and Senator Spencer Abraham, who sponsored the act to authorize award of the medal, Public Law 106-26; artist Artis Lane, who submitted the design for the medal; and Minnijean Brown Trickey and Jefferson Thomas, members of the Little Rock Nine, students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, AR, in 1957.

Remarks on the Proposed “Work Incentives Improvement Act”

June 15, 1999

That was a speech of a man who is not running for re-election. [*Laughter*] Since I’m not either, I can only hope to do as well. [*Laughter*]

I would like to point out something, since we are here in the LBJ Room, named for President Johnson, a room in which he worked for many good causes as Senate majority leader. Thirty-five years ago, he said, “I am convinced that it is morally right, that it is socially just, that it is economically sensible, that it is administratively feasible to open the door of employment opportunity to Americans with disabilities.”

Now, our country has done a lot on that road in the last 35 years, especially beginning with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In

1997 we dramatically strengthened the IDEA Act, and I’m very proud to have been a part of that with the people who are here. But the full promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act will never be realized until we pass this legislation.

I am profoundly indebted to all these Senators who are here, Senators Lott and Moynihan and, of course, to Senators Jeffords and Kennedy, but let me—I know most of you here understand this—but let me just give you one, specific example. I think it’s important to humanize this.

I had a town meeting about this issue in New Hampshire on February the 18th. And there was a man there who had been very badly injured in a skiing accident and was paralyzed, basically, from the chest down. And because of the special opportunity he had, he actually was able to keep his health care and work. His health insurance—his health care costs were \$40,000 a year, just to maintain him. But he worked very productively and very successfully for about 75 percent of that. That was his salary. Now, if he were not working, he’d still get the \$40,000 in health care, but he wouldn’t be working. He’d be much less happy, much less fulfilled. He wouldn’t be paying income taxes to the Federal Government. He wouldn’t be paying the other revenues through which we fund Medicare and Social Security, including, interestingly enough, the money from Social Security that goes to the disabled.

This is a crazy system that we have allowed to develop because you lose Government health insurance if you go to work and you make a certain amount of money. That’s what these fine people are trying to do. And I thought what Senator Kennedy said was great. I’d like it if it passed by Independence Day, but I’d like it, for sure, if we could get it up to the White House and have a signing ceremony by the 26th of July, which is the ninth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

But I would like to ask all the members of the press that are here to make sure that our fellow Americans understand the practical impact. There are thousands of these stories. But with all the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, you will never get the tens of thousands of people

who could come into the work force—maybe hundreds of thousands that aren't there—without this bill. This is a profoundly important piece of legislation.

And I would like to make one last economic argument. There's a lot of discussion now about how our economy can continue to grow even more with unemployment as low as it is without inflation. The only way to do that is to find new markets and new workers. And as nearly as I can tell, there are only two or three options. You can sell more American products overseas, or you can put people to work in high unemployment areas in America, in the urban and rural areas, or you can reach the unreached population of Americans who are dying to go to work, which are the remaining people on welfare who want to work and an even larger number—much larger number—the American disability community, fully capable of working in thousands and thousands and thousands of jobs—now, with them closed, because of the health care barrier.

We need to get this story out. The Senate is going to pass this bill. The House will have it, and we'll have a great celebration on July the Fourth and again on July the 26th.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:50 p.m. in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Room at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to the IDEA, Individuals with the Disabilities Education Act.

Statement on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board Report on Security at the Energy Department Weapons Labs

June 15, 1999

On March 18, 1999, I asked the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, the PFIAB, to undertake a review of the security threat at the Department of Energy's weapons labs and the measures that have been taken to address it. PFIAB Chairman Warren B. Rudman presented the Board's

findings to me today. I have asked the PFIAB to make the report available to Congress and to the public.

I would like to thank Senator Rudman and the Board members who undertook this important study over a 90-day period, reviewing hundreds of documents and conducting dozens of interviews. As the report recognizes, the Department of Energy represents the best of America's scientific talent and expertise. The value of their contributions makes it imperative that we place a premium on ensuring that we have instituted the best possible measures for the protection of our nation's most valuable secrets at Department facilities.

This administration already has taken unprecedented steps to reduce the vulnerability of our secrets at the labs. Over a year ago I issued a sweeping directive to strengthen counterintelligence across the board at the Department of Energy, and Secretary Richardson has aggressively instituted new rules and procedures for counterintelligence and security at DOE facilities. The PFIAB has made a number of proposals which we will carefully review. We remain committed to taking the necessary steps to safeguard our Nation's secrets.

As these vital national security issues are addressed, we will be most successful if we continue our efforts in a bipartisan manner with close cooperation between the Executive and Legislative branches of Government.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Commodity Credit Corporation

June 15, 1999

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 13, Public Law 806, 80th Congress (15 U.S.C. 714k), I transmit herewith the report of the Commodity Credit Corporation for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997.

William J. Clinton